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PATENT APPLICATION

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MAR 28 2003  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEIn re United States Patent Application of:

Applicant: DeVico, et al..

Application No.: 09/684,026

Filed: October 6, 2000

Title: VIRUS COAT  
PROTEIN/RECEPTOR CHIMERICAS  
AND METHODS OF USE

) Customer No.: 23448  
) Docket No.: 4115-144  
) Examiner: U. Winkler  
) Art Unit: 1648  
) Confirmation No.: 3193

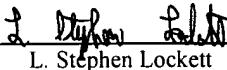


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

## EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that I am mailing the attached documents to the Commissioner for Patents on the date specified, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 and Express Mailed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.10.

  
L. Stephen Lockett

March 21, 2003

Date

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Express Mail Label Number

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**EXPEDITED STATUS INQUIRY  
FOR U. S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/684,026**

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

On October 22, 2002 a Final Office Action was mailed for the above-identified application.  
Applicants filed on December 23, 2002 (within two months of mail date of final Office Action) a

response to the October 22, 2002 Office Action. On or about February 2, 2003, the undersigned attorney contacted the examiner assigned to the application and was informed that applicants' response was still in the mailroom. Approximately, a month later the 1600 group had still not received applicants' response and the undersigned attorney faxed a copy to Ms. Rosa Thomas. Ms. Thomas informed the undersigned attorney that she had received the faxed copy and as soon as she located the file it would be assigned to the examiner. The undersigned attorney called Examiner Winkler on March 20, 2003 and was informed that the application had not been sent to her. The undersigned attorney left several messages, over several days for Ms. Thomas but received no return call thereby prompting the need for this inquiry regarding the status of the above-identified application.

The statutory six-month deadline for this application is April 22, 2003, which means that applicants will be forced to file an Appeal or an RCE, neither of which would be necessary if the December 23, 2002 Response, sent by applicants, had been promptly matched with the corresponding application and provided same to Examiner Winkler. In light of the approaching statutory deadline, applicants are requesting that an expedited search be conducted to locate the file for the above-identified application.

The undersigned attorney is requesting that as soon as the file is located and combined with applicants' response of December 23, 2002, she is contacted at 919-419-9350.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Fuierer  
Attorney for the Applicants  
Registration No. 39,983

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/  
Technology Law  
P.O. Box 14329  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709  
Telephone: (919) 419-9350  
Facsimile: (919) 419-9354  
IPTL File: 4115-144